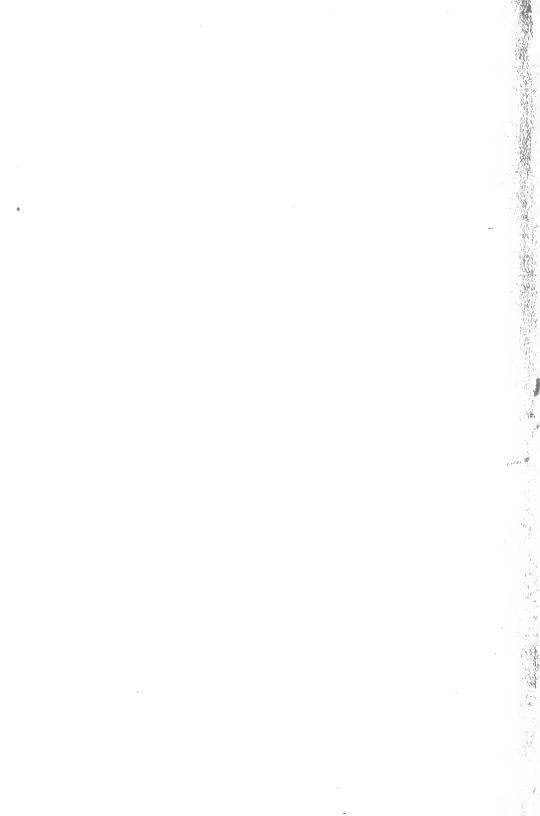
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# POLITICS ADJOURNED



"Since first this subject for heroic song Pleased me."



# POLITICS ADJOURNED

BY

RICHARD D. WARE

WITH INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

BY

JOHN MILTON



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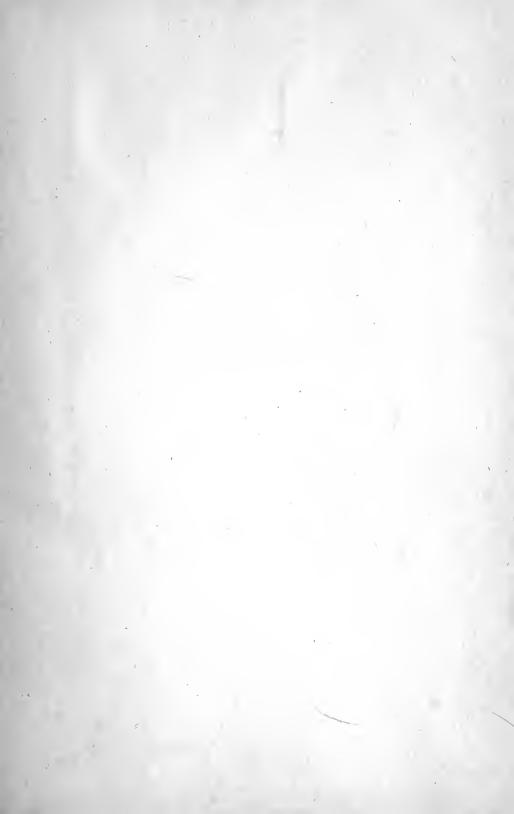
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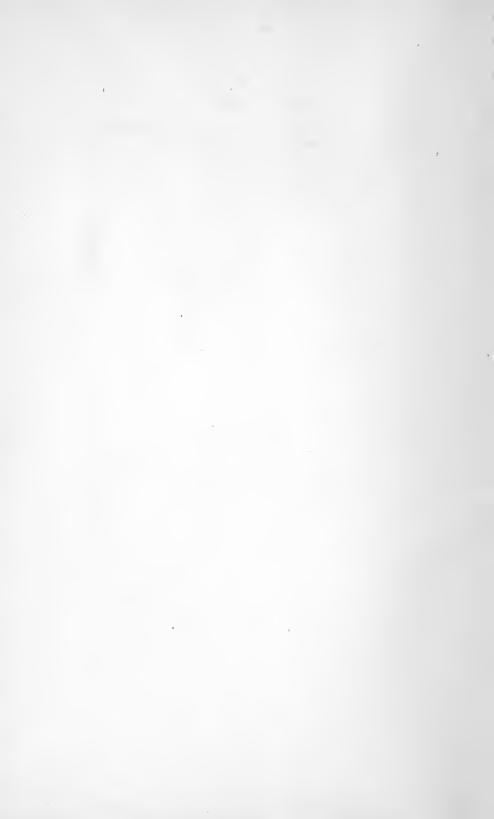


the e. e., Dec.

"Divided empire with Heaven's king I hold By thee, and more that half perhaps will reign; As man ere long, and this new World, shall know."

"Thy hope was to have reached The height of thy aspiring unopposed."

"Among those friendly Powers who him received With joy and acclamations loud."



#### THE OCTOPUS

"What seemed his head The likeness of a kingly crown had on."

Deep in a cavernous recess Within the coral columnate, White as the palace of Democracy Or tomb of Mogul queen, In watchful waiting lurked The Octopus. No wider vision had the cold dead eyes Than that of Self And to itself to clutch in strangling tentacles All that might yield of power and strength Devoured and absorbed Into itself. Such was the fate of such as came too near In trust and confidence. When came an enemy Out from the cavern swept a tide Of fetid ink And blinded him. And when it cleared away Still glowed the cold dead eyes Within the darkened solitude where lurked The Octopus.

#### THE STAMPEDERS

"To graze the herb all leaving Devoured each other; nor stood much in awe of man."

Now is the sixth long year Since first the hungry kine From out Potomac came To graze upon the fatness Of the Promised Land. All hungers drive to leadership. Of kine, or swine, Or men, And so it was there came First splashing to the shore A cross-bred Galloway And locoed western steer Nigh neck and neck But Galloway as Leader of the Herd. A Texan dogie making place for him. Close at their heels A band of Holsteins plunged With loud Teutonic bellowings At sight of fields to devastate and gorge. Then with an interval Between this leadership and them Came stock of registry, Of grade, Ungraded. And stray mavericks Self-branded with the mystic To give them brotherhood And pasturage, But all alike In famined hungriness. Come to the fields They fed. And as they made the fatness of them Theirs It stuck on the thin ribs Turned sleek

And swelled them, Till they saw themselves Such kine as never were. The Locoed One Swelled fat too visibly With meat and pride Filling the eyes of Galloway and Texan Far too full of his resplendency, And so they horned him Outcast From the herd To starve again. This did he not, But ranging wide Crops close, Roaring like caponned sucking dove Of War And waxes blubberous. Then came the howls of wolves In neighbor fields. "Feed on," the Holsteins lowed. "We are not here In perpetuity." And back into the lush the muzzles went, Intent on further fattening. Then howled the wolves again And up, wild-eyed, the heads Through all the herd. "Feed on," the Holsteins echoed once again. "They are good wolves. We knew them In the Fatherland." To which the Galloway and Texan Gave their nod While Jerseys, Guernseys, and the sturdy Herefords Shook their horned heads And pawed the ground. Once more the wolves; Once more the Holsteins echoed them; "They are three thousand miles away-" But even as they spoke One wandered from the herd

Lurched up to it

And died, Hot entrails hanging from the savage gash That disemboweled it. Then panic-stricken went the herd And milled, Running in circles First this way, then that, Until at length The Galloway and Texan Found their place of leadership Behind the hindermost. Then did the Herefords first make a stand, The Jerseys and the Guernseys at their sides, And to the Galloway— "Now take you place as Head of Herd In front. We stand behind you." "Nay," the Holsteins voiced, "But watch and wait, And waiting Feed again. And at the Texan's silent nod In seconding of this His own perturbed and half dazed purposing He stumbled to the front a pace or so To watch With eyes all visionless And wait On knocking knees. This did not serve the purpose Of the Channel Islanders And Herefords. "Out! out in front! Prepare and marshal us!" And goring back the Holsteins As they blocked the path Thrust out the Galloway, Lank Texan by his side, Into the open That the world might see The herd had leadership, And then, with figurehead set up,

Turned to And marshalled for themselves The serried phalanx Firm against the ravishers. Nor did this serve the purpose Of the Channel Islanders and Herefords For long. Though he who stands and waits May serve At times He who waits watchfully Proclaims he seeks To serve no other purpose than his own. That they well knew And this beside, That every marshalled phalanx is an incubus Upon the land that feeds it and itself Unless it moves ahead. The northern herd with clashing horns Went forth, an avalanche To serve the mother herd from whence it sprung. More wanderers came in Hamstrung and slashed, Bringing the blood smell nearer to the nose, And on the wind The growing reek of it And louder howls And groans and strangled cries. "Now lead us forth! It may not be That we, the fattest and most favored kine In all the world, Shall stand apart And watch the ravishment Of all our mother herds. We may not seek to still such cries With full-mouthed bellowings, So lead us with our hoofs and horns Against the wolves." "I needs must have a body guard." "Then choose." And lo,

The Holsteins were the chosen ones To make the pace In the adventuring. And so the pace was slow That still might be the given opportunity Of bawling down the howling of the wolves, To sit in bovine judgment on the world. Nor did this serve the purpose Of the Channel Islanders and Herefords, And thrusting to one side, contemptuous, The Galloway and Texan And the Holsteiners, Swept on And left them in the rear, But not ashamed, And joined the mother herds And those their milk had reared Against the wolves. Once joined they charged, Goring and tossing, trampling under hoof Until the horde was shattered into flight. Still do the mother herds And those reared on their milk Pursue, And with them at the front The fattest and most favored kine In all the world, Less fat In body and in mind Than when the charge began. And when the work is done And they come back again And find the Galloway Distended with the pride and power Of their deeds To such a size No frog would ever think To swell to,— The Texan still insatiate, The Holsteins sleek and smug, These things will serve no purpose Of the Channel Islanders and Herefords.

It well might seem there'd be Another Leader of the Herd Less fat with power and pride; No Texan, And that the Holsteiners would join The Locoed One, Though by presumption Wax less blubberous.

#### THE WHEEL

## "Nine Days They Fell."

A people willed that it be free Of human rule By regal right divine And built itself an engine For its government. No blueprint plan had they who fashioned it As in these motor-driven days, But standing at the forge The engineers Hand wrought the parts as they evolved From stress and compromise And then assembled them Till stood their handiwork Before the world. Power they sought, And mindful of the energy Of vapors of high temperature Suppressed, Exampled by the clattering lid Of tea kettle, Built they two chambers, Domed, cylindrical, Wherein, The while the people stoked below With taxes and excise The heated airs and gasses 'gendered there Commingled each with each Should rise Translated into Law. Then, lest they rise too soon And too ungovernable As sometimes blew the kettle's lid, A group of weights was set with nicety As safety valve, Assuring Law instead of turbulence. With power established thus Then to distribute it. For this

A driving wheel was wrought To take the power needful to the ends of Law And pass it on To its machinery. At first The engine groaned And clanked, Itself unfound, But with some tinkering, And added parts, And lubricants, It worked. Then came a time It groaned again, And straining at the bedplate On its bolts It nigh upreared To fall. But with more tinkering, And added parts, And lubricants, It worked again More smoothly than before. Then went the emperors, kings, peoples of the world To War, But not the engine, Till its people, Shamed.

And turned the engine over From its sluggishness.
Once turned
It raced.

It raced.
In the domed cylinders
High pressure strained,
Jarring the nice adjustment of the weights
But passing on fresh power
To the wheel
To be distributed.
How high the guage

Laid hands upon its futile energies That it should throb at last

With the hot beating of their hearts,

It mattered not; The wheel whirred "More!" And took the power to itself To whirl in dervish ecstacy, Avowed it would outwhirl The World! Demand begot supply From sheer distress, Until one day The safety valve said "No." But all too late. Revolving swift with planetary speed Up like a rocket, Down like the stick of it The wheel soared skyward In a great parabola And fell Flat, Impotent, Upon the world it sought to dominate. Whereat The people, Ixion unbound, Scrapped and made junk of it, And wrought another wheel Less revolutionary.

#### THE BAKER

"Who into glory him received Where now he sits at the right hand of Bliss."

Upon a time in France In days of stress like these There lived a man Who called himself A King. The People Crying to him for the bread He gave them not In gamin argot of the pave Nicknamed him "Baker." His wife, the queen, In zeal for wheatless days Proclaimed "Let them eat cake," And earned the brevet of "The Baker's wife." Then in due course the People's guillotine Cut off their heads. God send that we A People like to that Which voiced the Marseillaise If left ungagged In Freedom's cause Have courage to demand another head And hear it thud Upon the shaking platform of "Democracy!"

#### THE HOLIDAYS

## "The house of woe and pain!"

Now does the Nation know at last It has a War! Now does it see at hand The loss and suffering and death That comes from sieges, blockades and bombardments Engineered by skilful foes affeld Brought fell upon it by stupidity Within. At last wide open do the myriad eyes Half closed till now, Bedazzled by the glow of words Proclaimed from time to time For later swallowing, Look to the battle front Where chieftains take their stand To see the Nation's leaders there, And find them not. Behind its might arrayed Thin phantom shapes of men Twisting and turning, Circling hither, yon, Like ghosts of whirling dervishes Whisper and gibber through the corridors Of whited buildings Bomb and bullet proof, Poor wired marionettes with wires cut, Lieutenants of a phantom leadership. With but one choice, The Nation makes it, swift, And carries on, And with but shades to lead Leaps forward on the way Its fathers' risen ghosts point out To Victory.

#### THE LISTENERS

"He seemed

For dignity composed and high exploit, But all was false and hollow...yet he pleased the ear."

> High sat the Prophet President Beneath the clouds of War, Scions of Hebrew Kings and Judges At his feet, Magi from Middle West and Solid South At either hand, The while a blithe Hibernian bard, Tumultuous, Poised swift skilled fingers o'er the keys Expectant on the oracle. The banner of the Newest Thing in Freedoms Flopped, White as a craven's liver Or a well bleached skeleton Where once the Stars and Stripes had waved, While on the velvet carpet to the throne Columbia's royal bird, turned Democrat And vegetarian, With pinfeathers for plumes, Pecked at the grape nuts Cast by the Master's hand. Then roused the Prophet President. With frowning gaze Into the farthest vacuum He fixed the vision that he there beheld Upon his mind, And with Olympian hem and haw And nod The Seer spoke. As winged the words away A German snickered, Tongue stuck in his cheek. An Englishman drawled "Rot." A Frenchman shouted "Meud!"

And lost his gift of speech. A plain American Said "Hell!" While all the Hebrew counsellors and Magi Leaped from their seats With waving hands outspread Expounding and explaining Black was white. Then from the clouds The lightning crashed And to the Prophet President The Hebrew counsellors and Magi clung More tightly than before. More swiftly swept the fingers of the bard Across his instrument As from the oracle Flowed phrases and philosophies Snatched visioned from the void Again to be expounded and explained With hands a-wave. But other hands had laid upon The whited shroud And hauled it down, And in its place unfurled The Nation's battle flag. And seeing this The German looked askance, The while the Englishman And Frenchman And American Agreed to say "Hear! Hear!" "Sublime!" "Great Stuff!" To all he said And carry on the job they had in hand.

#### STAND BEHIND THE PRESIDENT

"Awaiting what command their mighty chief Had to impose."

Long has the Nation now been urged To stand behind the President. Long sought the Nation room Behind To stand upon, And edging in at last It got a leverage And pried him out In front. Thus shoved out to his place beneath the sun He found it to his taste, And seeing near at hand A pedestal, He leaped upon it, Bowing, affable, To talk the war to death. Some, looking upward, dazzled by the sun, Thought they beheld another leader there And chorused loud The praises of his satellites. Some, with clear visioned eyes undimmed, Saw presage in his past performances And pressed ahead again, To serve their country's honor at the front, Leaving behind them those who claimed to serve By standing still To wait upon his nod. But with self-exaltation came A certain stiffening of spine Till bristled it with points belligerent As armament of fretful porcupine, And these he cast, long range, Upon the enemy. But glancing from the toughened Teuton hide Back home they boomeranged And punctured him, Until he stood the New Stylites

On his pedestal.
So now united does the Nation stand
Behind him
On one foot,
And with the other poised
Await the Godsent opportunity.

#### DR. GARFIELD

"Such implements of mischief as shall dash To pieces and o'erwhelm whatever stands Adverse."

Over There our Sammy, Chucking bombs from trenches, Takes his fun out on the Hun Or busts a bunch of scenery.

Over Here our Heinie, Throwing monkey wrenches, Puts three Sundays in a week And stops all our machinery.

#### THE TEMPLE

"And higher yet the glorious Temple reared Her pile."

The righteous nations of the world allied Embattled to withstand Against the brutes of it Yet dreamed to raise a temple Unto Peace. An architect On parchments manifold Draughted a vision in the clouds And builded it. Foundation laid on fourteen pediments Each one engraved and protestant That this and that, The seas And these and those Were free. But stress and weight thuswise distributed Brought settlings and thrusts At fourteen different points, And so Before the sacred fires were lit The temple fell. New wisdom gained from out catastrophe With pediments reduced to four As corner stones He builded once again, But that most easterly Was rested upon sand The rains turned quick, And once again the temple Tilted. Tottered, Fell. Then on five other corner stones New quarried from the everlasting hills, Engraved with the most magic formulas Known to the adepts of the inner shrine Of politics

He builded once again. And came an earthquake rumbling down From the Carpathians And laid the temple low. Then fared the people to a battlefield And by a pit A shell, Vesuvian, Had made its crater, cavernous, They built great furnaces And in them cast The steel and iron from the battlefield, Lead of spent bullets, Copper of tangled wiring, And all the gold and silver in their treasuries, And flowed the molten streams Into a mighty ingot In the pit. Then with a pigment of the soil of France Turned red indelible With the dear blood of their own sons They wrote upon the wall of it The one word VICTORY, And builded upon this The temple stood.

#### "UNLESS"

"For all his tedious talk is but vain boast Or subtle shifts conviction to evade."

He shot an arrow in the air. He either did not know Or did not care About the use the cunning foe Might make of it When it should come to earth From soaring in the skies, But sped it forth. Then, panicked, sought to still the startled cries Of those who spake of it. Till time of need it lay Stored with the bombs and shells of poisoned gas More deadly than a serpent coiled Until there came the day When it had come to pass The hellish schemes were foiled. Then back into his face The schemers cast it straight, More swift than it had flown To seek to save their own, While nations saw their fate Sure destined by their swords Wait while he played with words As boys would toss their toys. Still would he not confess The mess he'd made. Still with his words he played While blazed the front, And sought with "merely" to make blunt "Unless."

#### CONCESSIONAL

"Who therefore seeks in these True wisdom finds her not."

Thou who with ceaseless watch and ward Doth curb unruly tongue and pen, Who poulticeth with silences
The fevers of our public men, All Silent One, do not forget!
He'll do it yet. He'll do it yet.

The Tumultys and Bakers go. The Houses and the Creels depart. Still stands against the cunning foe The Nation's little apple-cart, Down at the tail but not upset! He'll do it yet. He'll do it yet.

Bluff called, the echoes fade away. Amazed the people still inquire Why phrases of but yesterday But served to light the kitchen fire. All Silent One, do not forget! He'll do it yet.

If drunk with sight of power he think That Truth be visioned in mere dizziness, God! dam the ceaseless flow of ink, And teach him how to mind his business. All Silent One, do not forget! He'll do it yet.

For loyal hearts with will to serve,
Hot with the flames of righteous wrath,
For willing feet that will not swerve
From their appointed chosen path,
From foolish phrase and paltering word
Thy Mercy on Thy People—Lord.

Ameu.

#### THE WAR GARDEN

# "This Garden, planted with the trees of God."

An owner of rich fields Thought much on war and gardening, And though debarred by years From overseas activities Was keen to do at home What in him lay. Mindful of an adjacent training camp Where drilled his son That he in turn might drill A Hun, "I too can give 'em beans," He said. And settled on that lentil for his crop, And its high destiny The Cantonment. War beans they were to be, Not puny pea, dwarfed, bleached, All snapperless, But red, of calibre of buckshot, Highest caloried, Nitrogenous as T. N. T. itself, "Mohawk" by name, Fit food for warriors. Then, that success might be assured, Applied he to the Government For one high-schooled in beans To take full charge. Down came post haste in answer to his call, High browed and spectacled, One of the chosen ones grown wise enough In culture of the fields To drop the ferrule of the pedagogue And turn to making hay While shone the Democratic sun-This one professed That he knew beans From pole to pod, A veritable Bachelor of Beans,

And entered on his ministry. To such an one there is no higher joy Than backing his own visions With another's cash. Soon in the fields appeared the latest things In tractors, harrows, plows; Manures, phosphates, nitrates, Condiments so rich As well nigh to impoverish The one who pays for them, While on the sward close by their boundaries Sprung up the tents Of scouting boys and girls, Fair farmerettes and tired business men, Where shrill Victrolas shrieked "The Long Long Trail" and "Over There" From "Colors" on to "Taps." Thanks to one Hiram, And another, Josh, Who'd served the owner of the fields And them Some thirty years The seed was sown, And with its latent energies set free Up swift the Mohawks sprung As if from ambuscade Or as the fabled crop from dragon's teeth. In the fierce warfare with their enemies, Moth, rust, and blight And all the other fifty-four varieties Of ills the flesh of beans is heir to Did they prevail, And in due course were harvested And fared them on their way To serve their destiny, Stowed in the latest thing in motor trucks, Professor at the wheel. Such was his pride in them His first ripe fruits of Victory It well had seemed He'd turnéd from Bachelor To fatherhood.

Uplifted was he As he dwelt upon the words, Few but well chosen, Which would advise the Commissary Of the rare gift Straight from the soil of Liberty,— And some few little things like that, For now the gift had come to seem His own. Upon the outskirts of the nearby town There thrust upon his revery The raucous cry of newsboy voicing loud The Last Reply, to date, To the last Chancellor In the last Gabfest Gotterdammerung, And putting on the brake He stooped and paid, And grasped the message of his master's voice. Sped on again, Eyes biased, Entranced by the profundity Which could proclaim behind Three question marks A stern imperative, Until the wayward eye quite failed to see A STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, sign Across a railroad track. So in the end did the Professor Spill the beans, Whereat he who had hired him Straight up and fired him.

#### HAYFOOT

"and care

Sat on his faded cheek but under brows Of dauntless courage."

I guess

I'm kind of out'er step

With this here war.

There wa'n't no use

In sayin' I'd enlist

For I'd got born

Too late for '61,

Too soon for '17,

And though I'll make a day of it

With any of the boys 'round here On coonies, fox or pa'tridges—

And beat 'em too,—

They keep a-goin' it

Day in, day out,

While I lay off

Next day.

'Sides that,

I couldn't chew a pumpkin pie

Without my plate,

And if I busted it

Bitin' some German

In the leg,

I'd starve to death

Right on their hands,

So I got shet of that idee

Right off.

'Tain't natch'ral either

For the Perkinses

Have always been on hand In goin's-on like that

Till me.

I thought there must be somethin'

I could do

While crops was growin'

To help things along,

So when those pesky submarines

Got raisin' hell

I set a spell

And thought of a contraption I once see
A feller usin' fishin' on the lake
To keep a line off where he wanted it.

It worked, too,

So I went and whittled out A model of the thing

And sent it on express To Washington.

I guess it's down there yet So far's I know,

And by gosh

If I lived a hundred years

I'd keep on sayin' it would do the job In proper hands.

Then Sarah got this knittin' fever, Bad,

And plugged away on sweaters and the like
To keep the soldiers warm.

Now any man who's ever run a fox
And shivered on a runway on a hill

In January Knows

You'll freeze to death in spite of all the wool Off fifty sheep

When just a jumper

And a layer of hide Will keep you warm.

So when I see, some back They'd took the sheepskin coats

Off'n the boys in camp Say's I,

Here's somethin' that I KNOW, And I wrote a letter showin' plain

Just how it was

And sent it on to Washington,

But somehow I 'ain't heard as how the boys Have got their coats again.

Last Sunday I was glad I had on mine.

My boy come up to say good by Before he went to camp And brought along a magazine

That offered a big prize for some new words

The Country p'raps could use

For a new song.

Wal, I've been writin' verses for the Grange

And funerals and weddin's and such times

For forty years

And so I wrote 'em some

And sent 'em on.

But somehow I 'ain't heard

The Country singin' of 'em

Yet.

Then there's the 'taters.

When come spring

Seed was as high as Haman ever hung,

But aimin' help along

I planted all I had

And went in debt

For more,

And put 'em in on new ploughed ground,

And cultivated 'em,

And sprayed 'em,

Fought the bugs

And barreled 'em,

And now they stand me in

Jest forty cents a bushel Out.

One thing I did do,—

Two things come to think-

I got two bonds,

One Sarah's,

One for me.

It ain't no job to lend your cash

Most any time.

But there ain't no sense talkin',

If you're goin' to War

You've gotta GO!

And seein' as I can't

I guess I'll jest den up

And suck my paw.

#### THE EGGS

"Oh Parent, these are thy magnific deeds."

An hausfrau set a carrion crow Upon a clutch of eggs Sent down fresh gathered From the Hohenzollern farm At Junkerfeld,

Sweet village of the plain Of Brandenburg. They hatched,

And wriggled from the slime and broken shells
Of all save three
A brood of vipers

Helmeted with horns, And from those three

A fledgling trinity of vulture breed More fierce and foul

Than any lammergeier of the Alps, Hate, Fear, and Frightfulness. These did the foster-parent brood

And cherish to its breast.

These did the hausfrau, proud and pleased
To find the stock all thoroughbred
Feed high on witches' broth
Of newt and toad and carrion,
Until at length, full grown,
She turned them loose
To feed and sate themselves
Abroad.

Forth did they go,

East, West, to North and South On belly or on wing

And ravaged and laid waste and gorged Until their chosen food was gone.

Then turned they home again To feed,

And while the hausfrau starves She shrieks

And stops her ears

Against the murmur of the gliding scales And beat of heavy wings.

## THE FOURTH LOAN

"We war, if war be best, or to regain Our own right lost."

Why talk of sacrificial offerings To Victory When the high priest has bowed his head To Baal! Why pledge the country's honor, blood, and gold Against a phrase That may make waste of all! Why? That this People may maintain its vow, Despite its phrasemongers and palterers, Of righteous retribution On the steel spiked heads And beat them down. So let the People that has stood behind Now stand before And take this war of theirs Into their hands And handle it!

## INSURANCE

"for such another field They dreaded worse than Hell."

What need of Leagues, Alliances and Covenants Of peoples freed from Kings For Peace! What need of delegates abroad in conference For fashioning new laws And graving them Upon the sands of Time When every People holds within its hand today Its destiny Of Peace or War! Let each enact When in the chambers of Democracy Men lift their voices up In speech of War With all its ravings, wavings and phrasemongerings, That those of the elect who speak the words Shall make them good With their own bodies in the forefront line Or swallow them. And if the great adventuring Be one of righteousness The Demagogues alone Will choke.

## THE VOTE

# "The fairest of her daughters, Eve."

Our mothers cannot vote; Our daughters will; Friend wife still pairs with us. Our sisters are the wives of other men. Swathed widows seek heartsease In other things. But why, with War And bargain counter set For surcease from the cradle and the stove, Seek now the Women People of the land This further ferment For their own With politics adjourned? They seek not slaughtered sales When stores are closed For window dressing For the coming day, But watch and wait, And then rush in And storm the marked-down Paradise, Taking this home for .98 Or that for But now the die was cast. Fate answered "No." And fair Columbia Mother of us all Again was freed From slavery. What worth had been the prize if gained Had it but served to be the precedent That even in grim times like these One man Can come dragooning on a hobby horse And over-ride the will Of Sovereign States!

What were your puny votes to theirs: Let be. And when your men come home again From battlefield, or camp, or hospital, From making the world safe Abroad They'll make it safer Here. They who have faced machine guns in their lairs And choked them dumb Can face a typewriter. They who laid low Death's Head Hussars Can handle Broomstick Cavalry. And when rebuilding of the Nation's house Shall come And in new order of establishment Safe shall it stand, Their love for you regained, Their memory of those who with all lost Could give Of woman's care and tenderness, Their new-born wonder At the new-born loyalty and comradeship Of all of You Will make it sure as sets the sun that day Some night they'll bring you home A Ballot Box With roses wreathed And full of chocolates.

# HENRY FORD ENTERS THE SENATE

# "Then stayed the fervid wheels."

Throttle open, every nut sprung loose, (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) The Senators sighed sadly and they said "What's the use!" (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Hennery skidded up the Avenue Followed astern by the Peace Ship crew, All cranked up and no place to go Till Hank got the W<sup>2</sup> double O; Honking paeans in the victor's praise, Scattering roses from their big bokays. (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Then came the Pacifists in full platoons; Pifflers and Palterers and smug Poltroons; Brass-lunged orators and loud-mouthed bluffs; White livered whisperers and pussyfoot muffs; Big white feathers in their new silk tiles, Faces shining with their greasy smiles, Following hot-foot after Hen, To get their feet in the trough again. (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Hennery braked her at the White House door. (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) The President was listening and said "One more!" (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Then said Hen: "Mr. President You wrote for to run, so I run, hell bent. That Cincinnati feller who left his plow He hain't got nothin' on Detroit, I vow, When he knocked off for to go to fight the Turks, For I blew the whistle on the whole dern works." (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Then said the President "You sure done good. I thought my meaning would be understood. Now just to save you from the writers' cramp May I not present you with this rubber stamp?" "Fine," said Hen, "mighty handy too.

Stampin' is the very best thing I do. I've stamped out Lizzies and I've stamped out boats, I've stamped out vice and I've stamped out votes. I'll stamp this here on anything you say; I'm the best little stamper in the U. S. A." (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Said the President, watching the procession pass, "A useful anymile is the ass. A few big words and a few soft pats And the world grows safer for us Democrats." (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) When they came under the Capitol dome They all united in Home Sweet Home, Roaring it up like cannon thunder Clean to the roof of the rotunda, Until Hen left the joyous din And went to the Chamber to be sworn in. (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Tom stepped down from the lofty rostrum Glad hand out with an "Ecce Nostrum!" "Do you solemnly swear to do as you're told? All right then; come into the fold. Now you're a seated Senator." "Sure," said Hen, "Whadja take me for? Speakin' of seats, where's the one I get? I've bust a tire and I'd like to set." (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) Says Tom, "You'll find a vacant chair With those good Democrats over there. Of course you are non-partisan But that gang there is Republican." "I guess," said Hen, "'Twould be more my style If I squat right down in the middle of the aisle." (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels?) When he had come to the appointed spot Says Hen, "Boys, here's a little speech I've got. I stamped it out just before I come And it's a humdinger too, by gum!" Soon as Hennery began to read The Senators started on a mad stampede Each one dashing for the open door Yielding to Hennery the whole blamed floor.

All but Tom for the getaway, And he, poor devil, was paid to stay. (Can you hear the whizzy whirring of the wheels, The whizzy lizzie whirring of the wheels?)

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

"Till by two brethren... sent from God to claim His people from enthralment they return."

Hold fast, New Hampshire! Praises be That still your granite hills Which gave to build The Plymouth sands Have kept sufficient grit in them To serve your freemen and yourself When turned they quick Beneath the foot of Liberty When sought she them again! More praises be That still New England has the backbone Standing stiff Where hand of God erected it for time of need With politics regained! Let Washington, Aye, Jefferson, Proclaim your honor bright With beacon lights, And with them on your path, The Keyes to Wisdom's treasure house in hand And your own chosen Moses guiding you, Seek you the Promised Land of leadership In Truth!

## OLD PAPERSIDES

"My voice thou oft hast heard and hast not feared."

Aye, tear the Constitution up!
What is it between friends
But frayed and faded fussiness
That stays us from our ends!
Down with such outworn paper scraps
With Emperors and Kings!
Long live the Demautocracy
The Newest Freedom brings!

Let Senators in silence sit
While some old moss-back prates
Of Bill of Rights and Articles
And Sovereignty of States.
Let Legislatures rage and roar
At lost prerogative
They say they only meant to yield
And not to grant and give.

What matter little things like these When the All-Wise has planned To hold the Nation's fate within The hollow of his hand! Aye, tear the Constitution up! It makes for party war. How can it serve grim times like these When one man's will is law!

## **ENVOI**

From Democrats and Demagogues Demautocrats evolve To press their points upon the world And all its problems solve. But as the mind dwells on these things The legend seems to linger Of one who pressed a point too hard And found he'd pricked his finger.

## THE SPOILED CHILD

"He ended frowning, and his look denounced Desperate revenge."

Surrounded with the gifts of all his clan, Proud father, mother, Grandmothers fond to foolishness, Uncles and aunts, by blood or by brevet, Sat the spoiled child, King in his father's house. High on the painted walls of germproof nursery An endless file of fat white ducks Paraded in their waddling processional. Young Peter Rabbits skipped behind the bright array Of flags of foreign lands With Stars and Stripes Above the Bed of State. Here was the Throne. There the arrayed appliances Of toilet table for the Grand Levee. Fruits and confections rare Lay stored at hand for him And princely robes of wool and silk Or diaper. Here stood the flaring instrument Through which his Merry Man And Fiddlers Three Might seek to win his smile And friendly audience. Here was his library of pictured scrolls And tablets cubeiform of wood. Here were his fighting men, Horse, foot, dragoons and guns. Here lay his naval armament Careened, And here his airplane fallen to the earth Beside the trackage for his special train Derailed In fierce collision with the new red motor car, While in a corner stood his Arab steed

Unexercised and eating off his head.
Here ebon Dinah sat,
Duenna of the pink-cheeked white-trash odalisques
Who had supplanted her,
With button eyes fixed grim
Upon the prostrate form of one in khaki clad
Who seemingly like amorous Arabian
Had sought to love and die.
Gorged but not sated
Cried he still for more,
And howling like an infant catamount
Slapped the sad face of her who gave him life
Because she would not let him choke himself
Upon a sugar tit.

## THE PIE

"Taste this, and be henceforth among the gods."

At the Thanksgiving table of the world Sat the grim keeper of the boarding house Intent upon the serving of the new mince pie Of Peace. Counting with frowns the noses 'round the board She cut As Rhadamanthus would According to her will, First into fourteen segments, Then four more, Then five, And placed the sweetmeat in the housemaid's hands To pass the mangled fragments Of her equity. Whereat young Tommy, Speaking for himself And Tony and Gaston Said with a grin, "Thanks awfully old dear, We're quite fed up And are not taking any."

## "THE REAL COLONEL HOUSE"

# "Armed with Hell flames and fury."

The human eye will only see In me a man of Destiny Sent to our great democracy To save it from its fall, And by my skilled diplomacy Wrapt in its veils of secrecy Maintain its due supremacy,—But that ain't me at all!

For I'm a Texan bold and free! Yip! Yip! Yip! The ranger's is the life for me! Hip! Hip! Hip! I love the joys of border strife With smoking gun or bowie knife! Oh hully gee! That is the life! Zip! Zip! Zip!

With Emperors and Kings I lunch, With Premiers and all that bunch, And hand 'em all the latest hunch I've had on their affairs. But though they never seem to see A thing the way it looks to me The President and I agree, So who in Texas cares!

For he's with me and I'm with him. Yip! Yip! Yip!
My other name is Whispering Slim. Hip! Hip! Hip!
If I can't knock the steerin' gears Off all them other Texas steers I'll be bucked off and buy the beers! Zip! Zip! Zip!

I fixed the war so now I'll grease The fourteen wheels of Perfect Peace And fix some laws so wars shall cease Forever and a day.
So I shall be a resident
Of gay Paree while I invent
A League that wants a President
Who'll do just as I say.

But I'm a Texan bold and free! Yip! Yip! Yip! The ranger's is the life for me! Hip! Hip! Hip! Then back to Texas I shall hie And die as all good rangers die And in my boots and spurs I'll lie. R.I.P. R.I.P. R.I.P.

# THE PUBLICISTS

# "A solemn council forthwith to be held At Pandemonium."

With Dove returned again From clearing skies, Emerge the Publicists Like woodchucks from their holes, Noses a-twitter, Furtive eyes alert For sniff or sight of lurking danger near And popping back again, Or finding peace assured Up on to tail To chatter to the Universe. No minds or business of their own They set them up to mind The business of the world, Flinging a billion here, An harvest there, Pawing the fragments of a shaken continent As idiots delight In jigsawed puzzledom. Within the galaxy that seeks to shed its light High, self-exalted, sit The long-haired men And short-haired women folk The whole world's massed artillery alone Could still, Come forth again To find blood-brothers In the Bolsheviks And milk of human kindness In a Kurd. With them grim-visaged virgins sit, Come from the cooking of their mid-day calories On patent oilless lamps In lonely kitchenettes. Wise in their utter ignorance of all That might have made them worth Their keep,

Yet holding themselves out As ones most fit and formulaed For universal motherhood. Here those who prate As patriots And flaunt the flag they wave Above their own self-seeking heads In touching it, Yet seek to bear the glory of it forth As standard bearers For the world. There brood the bloodless intellectuals All bodyless, Who needs must claim to brains Or stand in Bankruptcy To Life. At hand with these Those who with shiny eyes Upon the Social Evil fixed, Gloat over it And find it private good For what obsesses them In secret thoughts and picturings, Canting obscenities in pseudo-science phrase And hounding down The promenading prostitute Whose chiefest sin was That she would have none of them. Here those so drunk with spiritual arrogance No lesser stimulant will serve their needs, And claiming to be **Prohibitionists** Make desert places where the vineyards were And seek by a New Miracle To turn red wine To ditchwater. Here sit in high degree With liars, plain and damned, The statisticians, abacus in hand, Telling its beads As priests upon their rosaries, Prepared to put the Q. E. D.

To any ass's bridge. With lights so dim and fogged Let us cross none at all Until we come to them But stagger on in faith As we were wont to do. And see things in the light That may be given us As it was wont to be.

## THE SPIDER

# "Whence and what art thou, execrable shape?"

Like spider fallen in the cheapened mucilage With which our stamps and envelopes Are sparsely smeared For future loss or opening, With hooks and claws upstuck And clogged for functioning He crawls within the web Of tangled cables, wires crossed, lines wireless, Star routes and routes beneath the stars, In which he makes his lair. One line alone runs straight, Down Pennsylvania Avenue Thereto. From never ceasing clicking typewriter To ever listening ear Attuned harmonious To every hint Of still more wire entanglements, whereon The freedom of the Nation's speech May be impaled And make the world more safe For Demautocracy. This high resolve in mind, At idle times He listens in on other private lines Which, found vibrating inharmonious, He disconnects. And hands the excommunicated ones To the Attorney-General. Secretly serviceable spies, Detectives and inquisitors Bring him, Special Delivery, The well steamed mail, Abated or delayed, Of those marked down suspect Of Non-Conformity, Or lovers' kisses cabled in a code For stern deciphering.

The wires flutter full
Of victims
Yet he seeks
To spread the web still tighter
On the land
Until at length
With public service turned
To public servitude,
Master and man may rest
And be content.

## THE NEW FREEDOM

"A cry of Hell-hounds never ceasing barked."

The Kings are dead! Long live the Bolsheviks! Those other Hairy Ones Who keep the flames of Liberty alive With castles, shrines, and factories And bombs The while our gentle Goddess-down-the-Bay Exalts her puny torch, Itself paid tribute to the Minotaur Of Capital. Now let us salvaged Democrats proclaim The Verities, Our Freedom Absolute With theirs On land as on the seas, Each one to be his brother's judge And executioner At will In case his sense of equity be dull And he refuse to share with us His wife and goods In equal opportunity of love and squandering. That is the life! And having drained it to the dregs Upon the well worked world Let us lie down, drunk equally And die, And free our rotted souls in the equality Of Time And Space.

#### BARNEY BARUCH

"From what consummate virtue I have chose This perfect man."

Barney Baruch, what is this that we're hearin' now, Lavin' the bulls and the bears a-careerin' now, Droppin' yer shears in the midst o' the shearin' now, All fer a job fer a dollar a year? Barney Baruch, tell us what is the mystery; How come ye sittin' there in the consistory Lavin' the ticker to go makin' history! Oi, yer the knowin' one, Barney me dear! Lave the byes in on it! There'd be no sin on it, Sure, and they'd win on it, Backin' yer luck. Here's to the plootocrat! Here's to the noovocrat! Yer the foine Dimocrat, Barney, me buck!

Barney, we're done with the war and the fightin' now. Look on the wall and ye'll see some more writin' now Tellin' ye plain that ye soon will go kitin' now, Rattlin' round loike the peas in a pod. Barney Baruch, what the hell are ye doin' there! Barney Baruch, don't ye see trouble brewin' there! You and the loikes of ye'll make wreck and ruin there. Sure we have had enough of ye, be God! It's the high climb ye had; It's the foine time ye had; Now out ye go me lad Back to yer push. We'll do the best we can With an American More on the good ould plan, Barney Baruch!

# READJUSTMENT

# "Oh glorious trial of exceeding love."

With peace declared, one Jack A gob,
Came back from raging main
And found a Jane
Was holding down his job.
So what to do with him
Now Uncle Sam was through with him.
While Boards, Commissions, Statisticians
Fought and wrangled
And got their red tape and themselves
Tied up and tangled
Jack never tarried.
And now they are married.

# ON PARADE

# "Pursue these sons of Darkness, drive them out."

"What are the bugles playing for? Who's havin' the parade?

"The Fightin' Nint's come home again," the color ser-

geant said.

"An' who is that a-leadin' 'em up there behind the band?"
"It's Eddie Logan back again, up where he oughter stand.

They thought they'd put him on the bum

Back over there in France.

They took away his epaulettes,

They took away his pants.

If Baker'd had his sneaking way

He'd never had a chance,

But Eddie Logan's wearin' 'em this mornin'."

"Where are the boys a-headin' for, a-marchin' on parade?"

"They've started on a long long trail," the color sergeant said.

"I never seen 'em totin' packs a-marchin' on parade."

"They've got a damn long ways to go," the color sergeant said.

"The're goin' to get Charlie Cole. He's down to City Hall. They tried to queer our brigadier, the best one of 'em all. And then the're goin' up to pay the Grand Old Man a call.

And start off on the trip tomorrow mornin'."

"Where are they goin' to from here, a-marchin' on parade?"

"The're goin' west, the're goin' west," the color sergeant said.

"Ain't Leonard Wood out there somewhere commandin' a brigade?"

"The're goin' to bring him home again," the color-sergeant said.

"For they dirty double crossed him when he tried to make 'em start To get in line with decent men and let us do our part, And now he's out in Kansas a-eatin' out his heart, But he'll be feelin' better some fine mornin'."

"Where are they goin' to from here, a-marchin' on parade?"

"The're goin' down to Washin'ton," the color-sergeant said.

"What are they goin' to do down there, a-marchin' on parade?"

"Clean out the whole damned Bakery," the color-sergeant said.

"For they've seen enough of slackers and they've heard enough from clerks;

They've fought with God's own fightin' men and know 'em by their works,

And little Snootie Baker, the boss of all the shirks, Will get what's comin' to 'um in the mornin'."

## THE MIRRORS

"War seemed a civil thing

To this uproar; horrid confusion heaped Upon confusion rose."

High through December skies Like their own snowflakes flying on the wind Wing the white doves of Peace Foregathering palaceward Where the Black Eagle hatched Its monstrous egg. Below them On the wreck strewn seas Swift ships surge on the way With flying banners, Flaming lights, And bands a-blare In joyous junketting Where all so recently Reigned silence and the blackness of the night, Or sounded shots and shrieks. Through shellpocked fields, Past shattered skeletons and ghosts Of homes Rush roaring engines Training palaces In mock of them; Refectories with birds and bottles stored Where famine stalked; Well lighted offices Replete with clerks and copyists, Pale faces peering forth through window panes To see where heroes died Beneath the sky. And in these ships and trains come Men To pass upon the problems of the world, But first To pass before the mirrors in the gallery And see themselves Where one King saw in his reflected self

The State; Another, Death. So let these men take heed In their own crystal gazing there That all that each one sees In turning to twist collar or cravat In surreptitiousness Is but a man, In all his weakness And his strength; In all his justice And his knavishness; In all his wisdom And his vanity; Alone, Save for the Spirit Of his native land.

#### APPEAL

"I when no other durst, sole undertook The dismal expedition."

Stay, brother Demos of the flaming heart With torch of Liberty in hand! Stay! Hast thou then given the once over All so recently To thine own old home town And found all's well That thou dost fare thee forth To cast thy light On Timbuctoo And Samarcand? Dost thou, unlearned in tongues, Dare rush into the Babel of the world To wag thine own In fevered phrases Indeterminate And definitions Of the undefinable? Hast it in mind To enter thy Leviathan And cross the seas As Jonah did To utter prophesies? Art thou so apt and versed In thy geography That thou canst give in winged words The metes and bounds and capital Of Oklahoma Here at home That thou shouldst seek to toy With ancient monuments, And set up citadels Abroad? Hast ever marvelled why the brotherhood Of Damon and his Pythias Has stood remarkable? Dost thou not know the brotherhood Of men Though brothers born

Must be assured Ere Nations glow with it? Dost thou not know That what through thine own spectacles Is visioned Truth Through those of other men as wise Is foolishness? What are thy godlike attributes To let thee plead And serve as arbiter Upon thy cause? Stay, brother, stay! Turn in thy transportation overseas And turn thyself To kindred subjects nearer to thy hand. In thy solicitude For lesser nationalities, Now in the coming year Let the poor weak minority Within this greater one Work out its destiny in self-development Autonomous And have a look-in now and then Upon the Nation's business Vouchsafed with kindly smile And jovial word. If thou wouldst render colonies To Caesar Back again, Transplant those settled in our midst From fair Hibernia And send them home to her To rule Brittania As they would rule us. If thou wouldst succor Poles And make them free Or further license Bolsheviks, Seek out the sweat shops where they toil In bondage To their Jewish overlords. If seekest thou the freedom of the seas Make thou the trip to Coney Free

And there suspend the fees That cleanliness must pay To prudery. Wouldst have free trade? See to it that the apple woman sits And earns her pittance Without tax imposed By the patrolman's petty larcenies, And let the smiling sons Of Greece and Italy Push their perambulating fruiteries Free From tribute paid To Tammany. Seekest thou Brotherhood With thou The biggest, wisest brother In the company? This too is at thy hand. Seek thou as midnight peals One of those myriad caravansaries Upon the Great White Way Most bright When blackest is the night, And sitting in with some chance group Of thirsty free Americans Purvey them beverages Freehandedly. When tolls the parting knell And feet uncertain set upon Their devious paths Each man of them Will clasp you to his breast In brotherhood! Surely, but thou wilt stay For this! Thou wiltest not? Farewell!



Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.

Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide

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